

## BOOK REVIEW

ROBERT H. MOHLENBROCK 1999. **The Illustrated Flora of Illinois: Ferns. Second Edition.** (ISBN 0-8093-2255-2, hbk.). Southern Illinois University Press, P.O. Box 3697, Carbondale, IL 62902-3697. Tel.: 618-453-6633; Fax: 618-453-1221; email: danseit@siu.edu. \$39.95. 240 pp., 163 illus.

This second edition of a truly classic floristic work includes 25 species not previously reported in the 1967 edition, has additional illustrations for all of those taxa, and provides a key to the additions and to supplement the other keys in the main section of the book when (as in the Lycopods) generic concepts in the family have changed. The small size of the book and its simple terminology, concise descriptions, literature citation, common name, habitat, range and distribution within the state, all make this an ideal field tool, just as its author intended. The simple yet clear illustrations, with accompanying dot-distribution maps are also very useful.

The introduction and keys to the orders and also, the genera, of ferns and their allies contain information requisite for any pteridology course. The Appendix of 47 pages, including additions, changes to keys, descriptions of taxa not previously included, distribution maps, etc. is a little cumbersome, but I can imagine that it would have been extraordinarily time-consuming to have integrated the updated information into the appropriate niche within the main text body. The glossary is short, simple and concise.

Certainly, the first edition of this book is already dog-eared, taped many times with library repair tape, and otherwise patched, on the shelves of everyone who botanizes in the vicinity of Illinois. Certainly I will have mine in the car when I go back to those septentrional stomping grounds in and around the *Land of Lincoln*. There is nothing as welcome as an update to a classic and this book fits the bill perfectly. I am delighted that Mohlenbrock was able to update this classic work so that younger botanists and "Phern Physicians" might better enjoy the marvelous fern flora. Southern Illinois Press deserves a salute for printing this fine book; truly a bargain!!! I hope more institutions in the state and adjacent ones will consider teaching a pteridology course if they are not presently doing so, given the importance of the group and its abundance in the state.—*John J. Pipoly III.*